

WHEELING BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR MEETING

March 23, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairperson Pro Tem Melone.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Ball, Freed and Melone were present. Commissioners Birnbaum and Engel were absent with prior notice. Health Officer, Serena Ivaldi was also present.

The Commission welcomed new Commissioner Ball.

III. MINUTES – September 15, 2020

Commissioner Freed moved, seconded by Commissioner Ball to approve the minutes dated September 15, 2020 as presented. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

IV. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA - None

V. CITIZENS CONCERNS AND COMMENTS - None

VI. ONGOING BUSINESS

(a) Blood Drive March 3, 2021 – 34 units collected. Screening for COVID-19 antibodies.

i. Future Blood Drive July 7, 2021 (appointment only)
34 units were collected at the March 3rd blood drive. They are still screening for COVID-19 antibodies. The first screening of COVID-19 antibodies drew 76 units, but it is now tapering back off to a normal blood drive.

The next blood drive is July 7th. Volunteers are needed.

(b) Prescription Medication Collection update – Canceled due to COVID.

i. Vote to resume collection

Chairperson Pro Tem Melone proposed resuming the medication and sharps collections because of the warmer weather, low COVID-19 infections and vaccinations being administered. A motion is needed.

Commissioner Freed did not think it was worth the risk of infecting people since it was not an emergency situation. He did not want to put people at risk and suggested holding off in making a decision until the next meeting. Ms. Ivaldi announced April 18th was the date of the next collection. The collections are normally scheduled on the third Saturday of each month from 10:00a-12:00p at the Wheeling Police Station. There is currently a kiosk inside the Wheeling Police Department which gets full very quickly without the drive. The kiosk will probably need

to be removed until after the collections resume because Waste Management will start charging for the extra pickups.

Chairperson Pro Tem Melone asked if people had been calling about the collection. Ms. Ivaldi noted Staff had received complaints and calls about when it was restarting.

Chairperson Pro Tem Melone understood Commissioner Freed's concern about the risk. Commissioner Freed expressed a concern with the risk when taking the collection from the cars. Ms. Ivaldi suggested using signage to have the cars pull in with the driver side by the volunteer and using a tray to collect the medication without reaching into cars.

Chairperson Pro Tem Melone expressed concern about if someone came without a mask. Ms. Ivaldi explained the volunteers had every right to turn someone away if they felt uncomfortable. She could also provide masks that could be given out and if someone refuses to put one on then they do not need to help them.

Commissioner Freed did not think people would read the signs when pulling into the parking lot. Ms. Ivaldi suggested also using the blood drive A-frame signage for directional and mask usage.

Chairperson Pro Tem Melone suggested also posting the new directional information on the Village website.

Chairperson Pro Tem Melone announced she was 50/50 on resuming the collection.

Commissioner Ball questioned the impact on delaying the collection to May when more vaccinations were available. Ms. Ivaldi did not think there would be a huge impact except for people being upset about it. She also expressed concern about the kiosks being full. Chairperson Pro Tem Melone suggested having the volunteers emptying the kiosk into the bins until the collections resumed. Ms. Ivaldi thought it would be a good idea to check on it weekly. Chairperson Pro Tem Melone offered to check on it weekly. After the discussion, she preferred waiting until May to resume the collection. Ms. Ivaldi announced the May collection date as May 15. The kiosk only holds sharps and no medication.

Commissioner Ball moved, seconded by Commissioner Freed to resume the medication and sharps collection on May 15, 2021.

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Freed, Ball, Melone

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Commissioners Birnbaum, Engel

PRESENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

There being three affirmative votes, the motion was approved.

Ms. Ivaldi explained the May date could always be canceled if there was still a concern.

It was decided to have two volunteers at the first collection. Ms. Ivaldi will provide masks and gloves.

(c) Wheeling Walks program

Ms. Ivaldi announced the Step It Up Challenge between April 10 and June 5. How many miles can you walk in 8 weeks...50, 100, 150? Log your miles from April 10 to June 5 and see how far your legs can take you. Cut back on driving your car and use your feet to get around Wheeling. Compete against yourself or other Wheeling Walkers, it is time to step it up. Your XXX will be announced at the Health and Fitness Center anniversary party this summer. Register by April 5 by completing the short Wheeling Walks form and you will be all set to start the free Step It Up Challenge.

Chairperson Pro Tem Melone asked if the Wheeling Walks program had been running during the pandemic. Ms. Ivaldi thought it had continued and was never canceled.

(d) COVID-19

There wasn't any discussion on the tape...

VII. OLD BUSINESS

(a) Confirmation of Officer Appointments - President & Secretary

Commissioner Freed moved, seconded by Commissioner Engel to nominate Commissioner Birnbaum for President.

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Freed, Ball, Melone

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Commissioners Birnbaum, Engel

PRESENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

There being three affirmative votes, the motion was approved.

Commissioner Birnbaum moved, seconded by Commissioner Freed to nominate Commissioner Melone for Secretary.

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Freed, Ball, Melone
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Commissioners Birnbaum, Engel
PRESENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

There being three affirmative votes, the motion was approved.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Freed asked if the May Health Fair had been canceled. Ms. Ivaldi was unsure, but offered to check.

Chairperson Pro Tem Melone questioned if Commissioner Engel was resigning because he was moving. Ms. Ivaldi was not aware but will contact him to confirm his resignation. Chairperson Pro Tem Melone offered to forward his email announcing his resignation.

Commissioner Ball questioned if Commissioners needed to reside in Wheeling. Ms. Ivaldi was unsure but will confirm.

Chairperson Pro Tem Melone asked how Commissioner Ball discovered the vacancy on the Board of Health. Commissioner Ball saw the opening in the Village newsletter. Commissioners Melone and Freed also became Board of Health Commissioners after seeing the vacancies in the newsletter. Reappointment is every three years.

Ms. Ivaldi mentioned there were three certified health departments in the area including Skokie, Stickney and Oak Park.

Chairperson Pro Tem Melone asked if Ms. Ivaldi had been busy with COVID questions, concerns and complaints from the community. Ms. Ivaldi confirmed it had been a very busy year. Most of her phone calls were from seniors who could not get the vaccine. To assist the seniors, Staff had been keeping track of the callers so they could sign them up on the Cook County vaccine website.

Chairperson Pro Tem Melone was interviewed by Channel 7 with her frustration about not being able to receive a vaccine.

Commissioner Freed had an easy experience registering online on Walgreen's website.

Commissioner Freed suggested having a Zoom Board of Health meeting to announce if there will be a Health Fair in May. Ms. Ivaldi did not think it would take place but will reach out to the Park District.

THE TAPE ENDED BEFORE THE MEETING ADJOURNED.

IX. VERBAL COMMUNICATION

X. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was entered at 7:41 p.m. by Commissioner Freed
Commissioner Ball seconded the motion. The motion received unanimous approval by the Board
of Health.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Melone, Chairperson Pro Tem
Wheeling Board of Health

Approved: Christine M. Melone Date: May 25, 2021

